

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MEMORANDUM REGARDING AUTHORIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I submit the following memorandum regarding authorization of the Department of Homeland Security:

We, the chairs of the committees with jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security or its components, are hereby recording our agreement on the following principles for the 117th Congress:

1. The Department of Homeland Security ("the Department") and its components should be authorized on a regular basis to ensure robust oversight and improve its operation.

2. Committees with jurisdiction over the Department and its components will prioritize any expired or expiring authorizations within the Department and its components in that committee's jurisdiction.

3. To the maximum extent practicable, the committees with jurisdiction over components of the Department will coordinate with the Committee on Homeland Security to produce comprehensive authorization legislation for the Department and consult with the Committee on Homeland Security prior to consideration of component authorization legislation in a committee markup. Prior to consideration of component authorization legislation in a committee markup, the Committee on Homeland Security will consult with any other committee that is a party to this agreement that is a committee with jurisdiction over that component.

4. The Committee on Homeland Security will coordinate with the committees with jurisdiction over components of the Department in the development of any comprehensive authorization bill for the Department.

5. The committees will work in good faith to expeditiously consider any bill to comprehensively authorize the Department, including timely resolution of any matters subject to a sequential or additional referral.

6. To the extent that there are policy differences between the committees regarding a provision of a bill or comprehensive authorization bill for the Department, the committees will make best efforts to resolve any such dispute and where the Committee on Homeland Security has policy differences regarding a measure to be advanced by another committee that is a party to this agreement, the Committee on Homeland Security will make best efforts to achieve a timely resolution of such dispute.

7. Consistent with existing rules and precedents of the House, the Committee on Homeland Security Committee shall not include any provision in a bill that the chair of the Committee on Ways and Means has determined to be a revenue provision or a provision affecting revenue. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to preclude the Committee on Ways and Means from exercising an additional or sequential referral over any measure or to waive clause 5(a) of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

8. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as altering or expanding any committee's jurisdiction under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives or the referral of any measure thereunder and will not be construed as support for any claim for sequential referral on legislation pertaining to the Department generally, including policies, programs, and general management of component agencies.

9. Further, nothing in this agreement shall be construed to affect the provision of information by the Executive Branch to committees of jurisdiction pursuant to law or otherwise.

10. Further, nothing in this agreement shall be construed as altering any responsibilities or authority of any committee under Rule XI of the House of Representatives.

11. Further, nothing in this agreement precludes a further agreement between the committees with regard to the implementation of a process to collaborate on comprehensive authorization legislation and component-specific measures.

12. Consistent with past practice, committees that are party to this agreement will consult with the Committee on Oversight and Reform when statutes under its Rule X jurisdiction are implicated by comprehensive reauthorization legislation.

Signed,

DAVID SCOTT,
*Chair, Committee on
Agriculture.*

FRANK PALLONE, JR.,
*Chair, Committee on
Energy and Commerce.*

MAXINE WATERS,
*Chair, Committee on
Financial Services.*

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
*Chair, Committee on
Homeland Security.*

ADAM SCHIFF,
*Chair, Permanent Select
Committee on
Intelligence.*

JERROLD NADLER,
*Chair, Committee on
the Judiciary.*

CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
*Chair, Committee on
Oversight and Reform.*

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
*Chair, Committee on
Science, Space and
Technology.*

PETER A. DEFazio,
*Chair, Committee on
Transportation and
Infrastructure.*

RICHARD NEAL,
*Chair, Committee on
Ways and Means.*

WELCOMING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the newly inaugurated Biden Administration.

I have every confidence that my friend, and a good man, President Joseph R. Biden, will serve as the head of state that this weighty moment deserves. With Vice President Kamala Harris by his side, America will heal, America will innovate, and America will lead.

My partnership with President Biden began on the campaign trail in 2008, and it continued to the U.S. Auto Rescue Task Force, where he showed every day his care for the needs of hardworking Michigan families and our manufacturing economy. I am ready to work alongside the Biden Administration and my colleagues in Congress to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, get our economy back on track, and help Michiganders get back on their feet.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the new Administration and welcoming the first family to the White House.

Now, we begin a new chapter in American history—one of innovative, collaborative, and forward-thinking leadership to strengthen our nation for generations to come.

We will build a future for our children that is guided by truth and science, energized by the will of the people, and fortified by love for our resilient republic. May we be successful in this endeavor, and may we never lose faith in America's promise.

WISHING TREVA GREEN A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary South Carolinian, Ms. Treva Green of Conway and wish her a happy 100th birthday.

Ms. Green was 18 years old when she volunteered to become a nurse with the U.S. Army. She served our nation in England, France, and Germany during World War II. Following the war, Treva and her husband moved to Conway and served the Grand Strand community as a nurse for over four decades. Wow.

Her commitment to her nation and community are truly admirable. She is a shining example of the best of our country. Ms. Green is now enjoying retirement in Conway. Treva recently said "I've done everything the Lord wants me to do, or at least I tried to and asked for forgiveness for everything I couldn't

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

get by. I'm happy to be alive and I'm happy to be able to tell my story." We should all live by this sentiment.

Madam Speaker, I join her family and friends in wishing Treva Green happy 100th birthday! I am sure they are excited to see her reach this incredible milestone.

REMARKS ON TERRI FREEMAN LEAVING THE NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bid a reluctant farewell to Terri Lee Freeman, who for the past six years has served as President of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. Ms. Freeman has done an exceptional job leading the nation's premiere Civil Rights museum, located in the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. During her tenure, Ms. Freeman organized the 50th anniversary of that seminal event in American history—"MLK50—Where Do We Go From Here?"—featuring such national figures as our late Congressional colleague, John Lewis; the Reverend Jesse Jackson, former Polish President and 1983 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa; the Reverend William Barber of the Poor People's Campaign, and many others who traveled from around the world to spend time in our showcase institution. In her six years, she saw the museum's budget double to \$9.7 million while overseeing a staff of 50 and an increased physical footprint. She also helped affiliate the museum with the Smithsonian Institution and its traveling exhibits. Also while at the museum, she began "Unpacking Racism in Action," a series of community dialogues aimed at confronting implicit and structural bias. Last year, she was named "Memphian of the Year" by Memphis Magazine. Before moving to Memphis, she was president of what is now the Greater Washington Community Foundation. In her 18 years with that organization, she increased the organization's assets from \$52 million in 1996 to more than \$350 million in 2014. A proven leader, Ms. Freeman was a 2016 graduate of Leadership Memphis and served on the boards of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, the New Memphis Institute and the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as being a member of the Tennessee Educational Equity Coalition Steering Committee. Born in Chicago, Ms. Freeman is a graduate of Hamtramck High School (1977) and the University of Dayton (1981 through 1983) and received a Master's degree in organizational communications from Howard University. Ms. Freeman is married to Dr. Bowyer G. Freeman, senior pastor of the New Saint Mark Baptist Church in Baltimore, and the mother of three grown daughters. I wish Ms. Freeman every success in her new post as executive director of the Reginald Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture in Baltimore. I'm pleased to read that Ms. Freeman will always consider herself an "adopted child" of our city where her work and dedication will remain her lasting legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I had intended to vote "Yea" on Roll Call No. 18.

SUPPORTING H.R. 335, THE LEGAL EXCEPTION NECESSARY TO APPOINT LLOYD J. AUSTIN III AS PRESIDENT BIDEN'S SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on January 21, I voted in support of H.R. 335, legislation to provide a waiver for former General Lloyd J. Austin III to serve as President Biden's Secretary of Defense. The Senate confirmed Austin as Secretary of Defense on January 22.

Civilian control of the military is a foundational tenet of our constitutional democracy, and I fully support all efforts to maintain and reinforce this essential principle.

Federal law requires that any Secretary of Defense nominee who has served in the military must be retired from the military for at least seven years, unless Congress grants a waiver. Until Congress granted a waiver for President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Defense, former General Jim Mattis, in 2017, a waiver of this kind had only occurred one other time: for former General George Marshall in 1950.

I believe this seven-year "cooling off" period for former military officials is an important mechanism to ensure continued civilian control of the U.S. military, and I believe Congress should not make a habit of granting these waivers.

However, I am confident that Secretary Austin is committed to upholding civilian control of the military. As he indicated in his Senate confirmation testimony on January 19, Austin believes that "the safety and security of our democracy demands competent civilian control of our Armed Forces, the subordination of military power to the civil. I know that being a member of the president's Cabinet—a political appointee—requires a different perspective and unique duties from a career in uniform."

I am also encouraged by Secretary Austin's statements of belief in military restraint, rather than interventionism, as well as aspects of his service under the Obama administration, including overseeing the withdrawal of 150,000 U.S. troops from Iraq, his opposition to a U.S. war and regime change in Syria, his dedication to diplomacy, and his support for avoiding civilian casualties.

Austin is also the first Black Secretary of Defense in U.S. history. While there is still a significant lack of diversity in the top ranks of the military, Austin's appointment is an important step in the right direction.

It is also notable that Austin will lead the Pentagon during a time when white supremacy and ideological extremism are on the rise among military ranks. In his January 19 Senate confirmation hearing, Austin pledged to

"fight hard to stamp out sexual assault, to rid our ranks of racists and extremists, and to create a climate where everyone fit and willing has the opportunity to serve this country with dignity."

Civilian control of the military is not only achieved via the Secretary of Defense. Unlike President Trump, who appointed former generals to serve in numerous civilian and national security roles in the White House, President Biden has demonstrated a clear commitment to civilian control of the military by appointing non-military civilians in key national security posts.

While I support Congress's waiver for Secretary Austin, I strongly encourage the Biden administration and future administrations to avoid appointing additional former military officials as Secretary of Defense if they have not completed their seven-year cooling off period. I also will not hesitate to criticize Secretary Austin and the Biden administration—as I have done with previous Republican and Democratic administrations—when I disagree with their policies and actions. It is essential we rein in our bloated and wasteful defense spending, tackle the massive waste, fraud, and abuse within the Pentagon, and that Congress reassert its Constitutional war powers and put an end to our endless wars.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUILDING UNITED STATES INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEVERAGING DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Building United States Infrastructure and Leveraging Development (BUILD) Act. This bipartisan legislation will spur billions of dollars in private investment toward surface transportation and freight transfer facilities, while giving state and local governments an important instrument to improve their communities.

It is no secret that America's infrastructure is falling apart while we fall behind our global competitors. America's roads, bridges, tunnels, and transit systems face a funding gap of more than \$1.1 trillion by 2025. One in five miles of highway pavement is in poor condition and congestion costs the U.S. economy nearly \$305 billion annually. Continued underinvestment will lead to longer trips to work or school, more costly maintenance expenses, and unsafe road conditions. We must do better.

As of December 1, 2020, the Department of Transportation doesn't have any additional surface transportation private activity bonds available, as the entire \$15 billion statutory cap has been issued or allocated. This legislation builds on the success of these bonds by doubling the federal volume cap and clarifying that the use of the bonds must maintain strong labor standards. While public-private partnerships are not a panacea for solving all of our transportation challenges, they are an important piece of rebuilding and renewing America. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation as part of an infrastructure investment bill.

PASSING THROUGH THE FIERY
TRIALS OF DEMOCRACY TO
SAVE AND RENEW OUR REPUB-
LIC

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, as the descendant of patriotic and heroic veterans who risked their lives to defend our nation and our freedoms, as a parent with the fervent hope and determination to pass on this great democracy to the next generation, and as a citizen of the greatest republic in world history, I rise to reflect on the state of our democracy as it is about to open a new chapter in the remarkable story of America.

In 1776, the Framers declared the self-evident and later the universal truth that all persons are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As important, the Framers declared that "to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed." This genius of self-government is the Framers' gift to us and America's gift to the world, and for nearly 250 years the world has looked upon the United States with wonder, awe, and envy not just for its awesome powers and achievements, but for being the exemplar to which most freedom-loving nations aspire.

But as President Lincoln reminded us at Gettysburg, the proposition that a people can govern themselves is not to be taken for granted; it is a proposition that will be tested time and again and it for us, the living, to highly resolve to commit ourselves to the great task always before us, that government of the people, by the people, and for the people not perish from the earth.

As Thomas Paine said in his time, the past four years were times that tried one's soul. The nation was tested, severely so, by what can only be described as the modern-day Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: a deadly pandemic, economic devastation unseen since the Great Depression, social justice unrest, and the very real threat of authoritarianism. While the threat posed by these challenges are still with us to varying extent, we can all rejoice that the nation withstood the challenge, *e pluribus unum*, by standing together as "We The People." President Lincoln reminded us that in times of testing and challenge that "the fiery trial through which we pass will mark us down in honor or dishonor until the latest generation" but that so long as the people "retain their virtue and vigilance, no administration, by any extreme of wickedness or folly, can very seriously injure the government in the short space of four years."

And Lincoln was right, for on Election Day 2020, Americans by a substantial majority, voted to withhold consent to govern from an incumbent administration and confer it upon another. That act of self-government and sovereign expression was solemnized on January 20, 2021, at noon when Joseph R. Biden and KAMALA D. HARRIS took the oath of office as the 46th President and 49th Vice-President of the United States.

The Philadelphia Miracle of 1789 endures but only because we Americans resolve that it does and work to make it so. The President takes the oath of office pledging to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. As does every one of my congressional colleagues, I have sacredly pledged true faith and allegiance in defending the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic and to well and faithfully execute the duties of the office I hold. I do this ever mindful that the purpose of our form of government is "to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty for posterity."

But we all have a responsibility to preserve and strengthen this constitutional republic and pass it on to the next generation by engaging in robust, lawful, and peaceful civic activity to hold our government to account and to peaceably assemble when necessary to petition for a redress of grievances as shown by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the March on Washington, following the example of Mahatma Gandhi; by John Lewis and the Civil Rights foot soldiers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama; by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott at Seneca Falls; by Cesar Chavez leading the fight for human dignity of farmworkers, and by Black Lives Matter demonstrators protesting inequalities in the criminal justice system. For the work of democracy is never complete, our union is always in the process of being made more perfect.

Americans have suffered, endured, and survived much pain and heartbreak over the past four years. But Psalms 30:5 teaches that "weeping lasteth for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." So, let us all be of good cheer, for tomorrow, at the end of morning, a new day dawns in America with the inauguration of President Biden and Vice-President HARRIS and our collective journey towards the beloved community continues inexorably forward.

REMEMBERING KEITH E.
FREELAND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the Record the following obituary for Keith E. Freeland.

With deep sorrow we pronounce the passing of Keith E. Freeland of Lewiston, NY on Friday, January 1, 2021. He passed away peacefully at the age of 67. Born in Niagara Falls, NY, he was the son of the late Edward C. and Norma E. (Klipfel) Freeland. He was raised along with his three sisters in Ransomville, NY. Keith married Christine A. (Covatta) Freeland in Lewiston, NY on October 18, 1975 and was a devoted and loving husband for 45 years.

Keith attended Lewiston-Porter High School and graduated from Buffalo State College with a degree in business education. He ultimately pursued his life-long career in manufacturing and sales, founding Package Design and Supply in 1995. Viewed as a kind, selfless and devoted leader, he demonstrated unwavering loyalty and compassion to all of his beloved employees and colleagues.

Keith not only excelled in his career but he was devoted to several hobbies. Boating was

his ultimate passion and anytime the sun was shining in the summer you could find him at the boat docks in Lewiston or cruising along the Lower Niagara River. He was fervent about the community of friends who shared his desire for being on the water; often traveling and seeking new adventures each summer. Keith was a dedicated board member of the Youngstown Yacht Club aiding in annual fundraising events. He also enjoyed vintage car restoration, proudly displaying vehicles he worked so tirelessly on at various local shows. Keith found solace in meticulously maintaining his yard in Thornwood Forest and working diligently on various projects around the home he so cherished. He was an avid Buffalo sports fan and longtime season ticket holder for his beloved Bills and Sabres, for whom he shared in the joys and sorrows with his two sons.

Above all, Keith cared about family and he would stop at nothing to be there for them. He instilled in them the value of hard work, honesty, loyalty and simply to be thankful and appreciative. In addition to his wife of 45 years, Keith is survived by his children, Dr. Erik Freeland, Jeffrey Freeland, and Julie Freeland; his siblings, Kathy (late Dr. F. Craig) Fisher of Chicago, IL and Jane (Greg) DiPietro of League City, TX. He was predeceased by his sister, Linda (James) Giardino of Scottsdale, AZ. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and countless friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSEMARY
HEARD, FORMER PRESIDENT OF
CATCH NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosemary Heard's life, career and many years of service as President and Chief Executive Officer of CATCH Neighborhood Housing.

As President, Rosemary was responsible for the administration and management of CATCH Neighborhood Housing, an organization whose mission is to make sure every person is confident in having a place to call home. Rosemary's ingenuity led to the construction of numerous new affordable housing units and revitalized existing housing in areas where affordable options are limited.

Rosemary's dedication to her community and bettering the lives of others did not stop at CATCH. She also served on the Municipal Housing Commission for the City of Concord, the Public Policy Committee for the National NeighborWorks Association, the City of Concord's Plan to End Homelessness, and Concord Hospital's Board of Trustees. Recognized for her professional excellence, Rosemary was the recipient of a Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce 2019 Business Leader of the Year award.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have been impacted by Rosemary's important work, I'd like to thank Rosemary for her commitment to and passion for housing security that will continue to benefit Granite Staters for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam, Speaker, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 18.

PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO
LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINT-
MENT OF PERSONS AS SEC-
RETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN
SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM
ACTIVE DUTY

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, through the National Security Act, Congress required that the Secretary of Defense be from civilian life and placed a limitation on the appointment of former military personnel to that position mandating that a nominee be retired from military service for ten years. In 2008, Congress shortened that period to seven years.

I have several concerns which I would like to express and go on record in opposition to providing a waiver. First, I thank the General for his service to our nation in uniform. I have reservations about providing yet another waiver from the law intended to preserve civilian leadership in the role of Secretary of Defense. If confirmed as Secretary of Defense by the U.S. Senate, after fewer than five years from his last military assignment, General Lloyd Austin (Ret.) will be expected to uphold the principles of civilian control of the military.

My hope is that General Austin's focus will be ensuring that our nation is prepared to meet head-on the threat posed by adversaries including China, Russia, and Iran. He should follow and focus on the bipartisan 2018 National Defense Strategy that stresses the need to strengthen our military for potential major conflict. Mr. Austin should work to preserve the strategic nuclear triad, protect and ensure American space superiority, and maintain Naval supremacy as cornerstones of our freedom.

Serving as our nation's Secretary of Defense is an awesome responsibility and I await the U.S. Senate vetting General Austin as the U.S. Senate has the responsibility under the Constitution of reviewing Presidential nominees.

IN RECOGNITION OF HER SERVICE:
MS. JUDITH MITCHELL

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judith Mitchell and her career of public service.

After 11 years of dedicated public service, Ms. Mitchell will be retiring from public service.

Ms. Mitchell served with honor as Rolling Hills Estate Mayor and Council Member for her city, Southland, her state and the nation. Ms. Mitchell showed her fairness, depth of knowledge and dedication to improving the quality of life for all.

During her political career, Ms. Mitchell was elected to represent 51 cities in the western portion of Los Angeles County which she represented through the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Ms. Mitchell was then appointed to the California Air Resources Board under Governor Edmund J. Brown, and additionally served as the President of the League of California Cities where she chaired several key environmental committees. Her work on these two agencies, helped to spur technological innovation to create jobs and economic growth in the Southland and across the nation.

Ms. Mitchell's legacy for clean air policies and her unwavering support for green technologies has not only helped those most impacted in her community, but these efforts have a direct impact on my Congressional District. These clean air advancements will also assist other States and regions to help meet federal public health standards and build a foundation for the United States technological and industrial leadership.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I extend my best wishes to Ms. Judith Mitchell upon her retirement and ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring her.

CONDEMNING IRRESPONSIBLE
DEFAMATION IN CONGRESS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my dismay that members of Congress are making unfounded claims of treason and sedition against their colleagues without evidence to back their outlandish claims. By this, I mean the numerous members alleging that members aided in "reconnaissance" tours for those individuals who would storm the Capitol during the Electoral College certification.

These accusations leveled by several members make these bold statements without offering a shred of evidence. In fact, over 30 members put their names on a letter which made these allegations without even an indication to whom they were referring to. In the absence of fact, these accusations have allowed conspiracy to permeate the narrative from the deepest enclaves of the Internet. Leftist media sources, from major 24 hour broadcast companies to blogs, have picked up on these hollow accusations, and the effects have been damaging.

Since evidence and due process have been replaced with speculation, members of Congress are being deemed guilty of these crimes, including myself. In fact, there is now a narrative running that since I supported the objection to the certification of the count, I must be one of the members guilty of this treason. Multiple media sources have reported as "fact" that me and other objectors conducted tours of the Capitol to do some type of "reconnaissance". This is patently and un-

equivocally false. They offered no proof of this scurrilous and defamatory falsehood. I asked Capitol Police to pull and preserve all video footage from House security cameras which can establish with finality who, if anyone, gave even one tour during the days leading to the unrest. I can say this: my office has not given a tour since February 2020. The continuing publication of this defamation by members of Congress and media is unprofessional, unethical, and actionable.

The increase in violent, threatening messages received in our offices because of the irresponsible political messaging from my colleagues in coordination with their media pals is sickening and indicative of our larger societal issues, such as a media which tells their viewers what they know to be true, not what the facts are. So, let me set the record straight. I have not given a tour of the Capitol since 2017, and my staff has not given a tour since they closed to the public early in 2020 as a COVID-19 response. Further, at no time did anyone with Stop the Steal talk to me about violence, and my efforts to speak to the American people and fight for my constituents were guided by the First Amendment and the Electoral Count Act of 1878.

Madam Speaker, the purpose of this body is to serve as the voice of the American people, a voice which speaks with honesty to conduct the business of this country and contribute to the overall good. Yet, the passions of humanity can undermine these principles, and these unfounded accusations are a menace to the traditions of this body. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I condemn my colleagues irresponsible actions and their use of their official powers to fuel a media spectacle for their own political benefit. Their willingness to set these mistruths into the public and not interject when the truth is deviated from and innocent people are blamed is defamation, conspiratorial, and faulty justice. Much like McCarthyism or the witch hunt conducted these last four years, history will not look kindly on this abuse of Congressional power, and therefore I implore my colleagues to either set the record straight with evidence or retract these claims immediately to resecure their position in history.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE COM-
PREHENSIVE BREAST RECON-
STRUCTION ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Comprehensive Breast Reconstruction Act. This legislation will bring Medicaid and Medicare programs into compliance with the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, and will expand post-mastectomy breast reconstruction patients' access to modern and innovative procedures, products, and therapies to support their return to a healthy normal.

In 2020 alone, almost 280,000 new instances of breast cancer were estimated to have been diagnosed, and anticipated deaths from breast cancer were over 42,000. However, the breast cancer survival rate has steadily increased faster than the rate of new diagnoses, which is believed to be related to

new treatments and procedures, such as early detection screening.

My legislation builds on past advancements and successes to heal the whole patient following a medically-necessary mastectomy. Deciding to receive a mastectomy is undoubtedly an emotional decision in an impossible situation. In order to alleviate the toll this decision has on breast cancer patients, breast reconstruction is an option for them to build a sense of well-being and confidence as well as regain a sense of wholeness.

More patients are opting for breast reconstruction, with over 107,000 in 2019, a 36 percent growth since 2000. Unfortunately, many patients face a complex landscape of what exactly a breast reconstruction entails, and laws and policies intended to provide healthcare coverage for this procedure are antiquated and do not account for advances in this area.

My legislation will establish a more uniform and comprehensive breast reconstruction process that can be tailored to fit each patient's needs. Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries will be guaranteed access to post-mastectomy reconstruction under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act and by expanding coverage to include nipple-areola complex tattoos for those who elect to undergo this procedure. The goal is to expand access to scientifically proven healthcare that increase patient well-being and satisfaction with their results.

Madam Speaker, breast reconstruction and the nipple-areola complex tattoo are not about cosmetic change. They are about holistic outcomes and choice in what the patient and provider decide is best physically, emotionally, and mentally to attain the ideal outcome and long-term health.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this long-overdue legislation.

AMERICAN FOOD FOR AMERICAN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the "American Food for American Schools Act," which I have sponsored since the 114th Congress. I want to thank Representatives KAPTUR (D-OH), FORTENBERRY (R-NE), RYAN (D-OH), LAMALFA (R-CA), CARBAJAL (D-CA), YOUNG (R-AK), and KILMER (D-WA) for their support as original cosponsors.

Our "American Food for American Schools Act" would strengthen enforcement of the existing "Buy American" requirements under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school breakfast, special milk, and national school lunch programs. This will ensure that school districts use federal taxpayer dollars to purchase domestically sourced food products for all in-school meals and afterschool snacks. Our bipartisan bill would also increase public transparency by allowing parents to know from where the food served to their children in school comes.

Even in California's Central Valley, which includes many of the most productive agricultural communities in the nation, school districts continue to misuse taxpayer dollars to buy im-

ported foods, unnecessarily, without informing parents. In numerous cases, these same imported foods have been recalled due to safety concerns and outbreaks of food borne diseases. This is especially troubling as those same foods could have been sourced locally in the first place as required by federal law.

Under our bill, school districts would be required to obtain a written waiver from USDA to use federal taxpayer dollars to purchase foreign-sourced food products. Any such waivers would only be granted by USDA if the domestically produced food was cost prohibitive or simply unavailable. Our bill would also require that school districts notify parents of all foreign-sourced foods served to students, by posting any such waivers obtained from USDA on the school's website. This would increase public transparency and provide American farmers the opportunity to seek out school districts in need of affordable, domestically grown foods. Our nation's schoolchildren should be served nutritious, American-grown foods produced under the strictest food safety standards in the world, as required by federal law. That is exactly what our bill would accomplish.

In the 115th Congress, we included a "Buy American" enforcement provision for the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Program in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill. This was a first step in addressing this critical issue for American farmers and parents with school-age children. Now, Congress needs to finish the job by passing our "American Food for American Schools Act" into law.

Madam Speaker, I hope all members of the House will join us in cosponsoring the "American Food for American Schools Act of 2021." I look forward to working with the Committee on Education and Labor to ensure that our bipartisan bill is included in any future Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF SGT. MAJ. JERRY BELL

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Sergeant Major Jerry Bell, a decorated veteran of the United States Army, who sadly passed away Sunday, January 10, 2021.

Jerry Lynn Bell was born May 2, 1943 to parents William Ernest and Mary Adeline (Johnson) Bell in Leon County, Texas. Jerry Bell's entire life has been defined by bravery and selfless service. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. During his time in the military, he rose to the rank of Sergeant Major and proved himself to be a true American hero, receiving the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals for valor, two Bronze Stars for valor, and an Army Commendation Medal for valor during his service in the Vietnam War as a tanker and helicopter gunner. His nephew, Texas State Representative Cecil Bell Jr., describes Sgt. Maj. Bell as a "true warrior who fought with valor and distinction."

While his military service took him from Alaska to Germany, Sgt. Maj. Bell could not

help but return to his home of Leon County. After returning to Texas, he worked for B-5 Construction, the U.S. Postal Service, and was the owner and operator of Bell Alley Gun Shop.

Sgt. Maj. Bell was a mainstay of the community. At his gun shop, he did what he loved most, selling guns and working as a gunsmith while sharing thoughts on conservatism, 2nd amendment rights, and religion. While Sgt. Maj. Bell leaves behind a military legacy to be heralded, it comes second to his legacy as a man who placed God first in his life, a man who loved his country and state, and a man who was a devoted husband, father, and great-grandfather. Sgt. Maj. Bell's favorite times were those spent with family at Bell family reunions and Christmas parties at his home in Leona. The Bell family shared their lives with each other and the entire community, making everyone feel like they were a part of this tight-knit family.

In the words of his nephew, Cecil Bell Jr., "On January 10, 2021, as the cold rains fell in Leon County, Texas, the chopping sounds of an Army helicopter landing were heard as Jerry Bell, age 77, Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Retired, deployed to Heaven's shore." Sgt. Maj. is remembered by his loving wife, Alice Cothron Bell of Leona and a host of loving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

I join the entire community in honoring Sgt. Maj. Bell for a lifetime of service both overseas and stateside. His service to our nation will never be forgotten.

IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

HON. CAROLYN BOURDEAUX

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 25, 2021

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, I teach a class called Public Service and Democracy where often I point out that our democracy is not self-executing, it requires people of good faith and ethics to make it work.

Our President and those who enable him are not operating in good faith. I come from Georgia, one of the most contested states during this election cycle and I'm no stranger to fighting for voting rights or concerns about election results.

I've fought for years to protect our elections in Georgia and expand access to the ballot box—so I know a thing or two about free and fair elections.

Let's be clear: Georgia's elections were administered by Republicans who themselves voted for and campaigned for President Trump. So if there was fraud, I'm sure they would have found it. At the request of the President and his surrogates, Republicans have looked high and low for voter fraud and have found nothing.

Georgia officials, at significant cost to the taxpayers I might add, have counted the five million votes in Georgia three times, once by hand, and only found minor errors that would not change the outcome of the election.

They have audited 15,000 voter signatures and again only found the most trivial of problems, and nothing that would indicate voter fraud.

They have investigated every charge, every conspiracy with diligence and have come up with nothing.

The idea that Georgia's vote was illegitimate is a lie. There is no way around it.

But the President didn't like the results, so he tried to extort, bully, and threaten our Secretary of State to change the election results. Now, we actually have attempted election fraud—but from our President. And we have his conversation on tape.

When his plan to solicit fraud failed, the President then incited a violent mob on the basis of lies to come to the Capitol and try to disrupt the constitutionally required certification of the election. This was a mob with zip tie handcuffs, tactical military gear, and weapons. A mob that hung a noose on the mall for Vice President Mike Pence. Then as the Capitol Police made desperate pleas for the deployment of the national guard to help respond to the insurrection, their request was denied by the President.

A democracy requires people of good faith and ethics to make it work. I ask my colleagues to reject the lies and to support the article of impeachment against President Donald Trump.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees

to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED JANUARY 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Transportation.

SR-325

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the

United Nations, with the rank and status of the Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

SD-G50/UTC

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SVC-217

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Organizational business meeting to consider committee rules and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 117th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Denis Richard McDonough, of Maryland, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SD-106

JANUARY 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marcia Louise Fudge, of Ohio, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Cecilia Elena Rouse, of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

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